

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

January 13, 2021

Good evening. This is First Selectman Jason Bowsza reaching out to all residents of the Town of East Windsor. A copy of this message, and more information about COVID-19, can be found on the Town's website.

We have had eighty-nine new cases of COVID-19 confirmed in East Windsor since the first of the year, with fifty-three of those cases coming last week. This is our second highest weekly confirmed-positive total since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Town continues to partner with Priority Urgent Care to offer live virus testing and antibody testing every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm at the Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor. This is open to anyone, and all insurances are accepted. Depending on individual insurance plans, patients may be responsible for either a copay or deductible. People without insurance will be tested at no charge. Anyone interested is strongly encouraged to schedule appointments ahead of time by calling 860-454-0678.

As early as next week, Connecticut may transition to Phase 1b of vaccine distribution. This phase is likely to include individuals over age 75 first, and the State is having discussions about whether to expand that to those individuals over age 65 in this phase as well. Other groups likely to be included in Phase 1b are frontline essential workers and individuals and staff in congregate settings. State leaders are still working on criteria for what constitutes frontline essential workers. When you are eligible for the vaccination, you will most likely work through your medical provider or the workplace coordinator.

Many people may still have questions about the risks and benefits of taking the vaccine when they are eligible. The Town has posted a <u>video</u> on our website featuring Dr. David Agus, Professor of Medicine at University of Southern California, in which the doctor addresses many questions about the vaccine.

We are nearly a year into the pandemic, and many people, including our senior citizens, are feeling isolated. The East Windsor Community Services Department is trying to ease that sense of isolation by running a "Snuggle-a-Senior" program. This initiative pairs a community member with a senior that may be experiencing loneliness and establishes a blanket exchange and a pen pal relationship if participants so choose. This program has been so popular that it has been extended through the first week of February. For more information call the Senior Center at 860-292-8262.

We're all in this together. As Henry Ford said, "coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

I wish a very happy and healthy New Year,

Jason E. Bowsza First Selectman